

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 241623Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 838

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 66

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE HOLDS AMID ATTACKS ON CATHOLICS

1. CATHOLIC INDIVIDUALS AND MEETING PLACES CONTINUE TO BE THE TARGETS OF ATTACKS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. ST. PATRICK'S HALL ON THE WATERSIDE IN LONDONDERRY WAS BOMBED FEBRUARY 22 AND A SMALL BOMB WAS DEFUSED IN THE ARDOYNE BELFAST ON THE SAME DAY.

2. THERE WERE SEVERAL UNEXPLAINED SHOOTINGS WITH CATHOLIC VICTIMS OVER THE WEEKEND. ONE YOUTH WAS SHOT AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AT A FISH AND CHIP SHOP IN NORTH QUEEN STREET AREA BELFAST AND THERE WERE SEVERAL KNEE-CAPPINGS, ONE OF VICTIMS A PROTESTANT.

3. THERE ARE NO RPT NO SIGNS OF INTENTIONS ON PART PROVISIONAL IRA TO END CEASEFIRE. CONTROVERSY OVER POLICING ROLE FOR PROVISIONALS CONTINUES. PRESS FEBRUARY 24 REPORTED IRISH REPUBLIC HAD REQUESTED CLARIFICATION BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF PROVISIONAL IRA ROLE IN POLICING (REFTEL).

4. IT BELIEVED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP)

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PRESENTED FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR POLICING TO SECSTATE REES

AND MINISTER STATE ORME FEBRUARY 21. PROPOSALS PROBABLY INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT NEW INDEPENDENT POLICE AUTHORITY AND OMBUDSMAN OR COMPLAINTS SYSTEM. SECSTATE REES REPORTEDLY ASSURED SDLP DELEGATION HE PREPARED PROGRESSIVELY RELEASE DETAINEES ON HIS SATISFACTION THERE GENUINE AND SUSTAINED CESSATION VIOLENCE.

5. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) POLITICIANS CALLED AT POLICE STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OVER WEEKEND TO PRESS COMPLAINTS AND EXPLAIN LOYALIST VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS TIGHTEN UP GUN LICENSES. GOVERNMENT INTENDS REVIEW LICENSES AS THEY EXPIRE AND WILL ISSUE RENEWAL PERMITS ONLY ON ESTABLISHMENT NECESSITY HOLDER CONTINUE POSSESS FIREARM. SOME UNIONIST POLITICIANS HAVE ADVISED ADHERENTS NOT RPT NOT SURRENDER FIREARMS. OFFICIAL UNIONIST JOHN TAYLOR HAS POSED QUESTION ON WHAT WOULD SITUATION FOR LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY BE IF SOME SEVENTY THOUSAND LEGAL GUNS WERE REPORTED LOST IN NEXT FEW MONTHS.

6. IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY (IRSP) CONTINUES ISSUED ALLGATIONS THAT OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN ARMY ATTACKING THEIR MEMBERS. THREE RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENTS BELFAST BLAMED ON OFFICIAL IRA BY IRSP.
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